

# Deployment Excellence



*By Mr. Charlie Ledebuhr*

*Competition year 2006 was another stellar performance year for the Deployment Excellence Award (DEA) program, with great units and installations setting the pace in deployment operations. The Army's operational tempo, coupled with increased awareness of the DEA program, resulted in the largest level of participation ever. The program saw significant gains, particularly in the operational, supporting, and installation categories.*

This year's award ceremony was held 18 May in Alexandria, Virginia. Army Deputy Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Ann E. Dunwoody presented the DEA certificates to the honored units. Army Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff, G3, Major General Michael W. Symanski, and the Commanding General, U.S. Army Transportation Center, Brigadier General Mark Scheid, helped present the awards.

The awards banquet capped a special day recognizing excellence and success in deployment. The Commanding General, U.S. Army Materiel Command, General Benjamin S. Griffin, spoke at the banquet and challenged units and installations to maintain their high deployment standards. Before the ceremony and banquet, unit representatives had the opportunity to tour the Pentagon, the Capitol, and the National Mall.

In the DEA program, Army units compete by component (Active, Reserve, and National Guard), in large-unit (battalion and above), small-unit (company and below), and supporting unit categories. Units Armywide compete in the installation and operational deployment categories. The operational deployment category is open to all Army units that deploy on operational missions such as peacekeeping and the Global War on Terrorism. Units can contend for either the large-unit or small-unit award.

The Army's operational tempo and strong major command involvement brought a number of new units and installations into the competition. The Installation Management Agency had its best showing ever with the largest ever number of installations competing. The winner for the second consecutive year was Fort Hood, Texas. The installation's outstanding support to nine overlapping deployments, coupled with the challenges

of dealing with Hurricanes Rita and Katrina, resulted in an extremely strong showing. Congratulations to the terrific installation deployment team that serves Fort Hood so well.

A newcomer to the competition, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, was the runner-up in the installation category in a very close competition. The Fort Bragg installation team received strong endorsements from its diverse customer base and demonstrated its outstanding capabilities to support scheduled and no-notice deployments.

The Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command swept the Active Army supporting unit category with the 832d Transportation Battalion from the Port of Jacksonville, Florida, winning and the 838th Transportation Battalion from the Port of Rotterdam, the Netherlands, coming in as a close second.

The Eighth U.S. Army, Korea, a winner last year in the operational deployment category, continued to excel with the 305th Quartermaster Company at Yongsan winning the Active Army small-unit category and the 728th Military Police Battalion at Daegu being selected as runner-up in the Active Army large-unit category.

The U.S. Army Network Enterprise Technology Command had its first winner with the 40th Signal Battalion from Fort Huachuca, Arizona, winning the Active Army large-unit category.

The Army Reserve had a number of outstanding entries, including the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, U.S. Civil Affairs and Psychological Operation Command at Fort Bragg, which was recognized as the best Reserve Component supporting

unit. The command formed movement support teams with internal assets and supported a complex operation involving 19 special operation units; 1,200 Soldiers; and 160 short tons of cargo. The teams performed a number of tasks, to include:

- Ensuring that deploying Army special operations forces met deployment timelines.
- Preparing timely and accurate movement data.
- Using transportation assets properly.

The National Guard also had some standout units, including Joint Forces Headquarters-Florida. The headquarters, selected as the National Guard's best supporting unit, supported the deployment of 29 units and 1,800 soldiers in support of the Global War on Terrorism while simultaneously providing military support to civil authorities during four major hurricane recovery operations.

Winning units did a number of things to stand out in the competition. First, they selected an appropriate

category, one that best fit the deployment event. The winners also fully documented and explained their deployment event. Units planning to compete in 2007 should consider the large and small deploying unit categories, which historically have the smallest number of units competing and may offer the greatest opportunity. Remember that the board only knows what the contestants tell them, so a complete description of what the unit accomplished during the deployment phase should be included in the entry packet. Each packet has specific requirements that should be addressed. Finally, photographs provide a lot of support for entries.

The DEA program guidance and evaluation criteria are available on the DEA Web page at <http://www.deploy.eustis.army.mil/Default.html>. For additional information, contact the unit's major command DEA point of contact or Mr. Henry Johnson, the DEA program manager, at DSN 927-1833 or commercial 757-878-1833.

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## 2006 Winners

40th Signal Battalion  
Fort Huachuca, Arizona  
*Active Army—Large Unit*

305th Quartermaster Company  
Yongsan, Korea  
*Active Army—Small Unit*

832d Transportation Battalion  
Jacksonville, Florida  
*Active Army—Supporting Unit*

483d Transportation Battalion  
Vallejo, California  
*Reserve Component—Large Unit*

828th Quartermaster Company  
Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania  
*Reserve Component—Small Unit*

Headquarters, Headquarters Company  
U.S. Civil Affairs and Psychological  
Operations Command  
Fort Bragg, North Carolina  
*Reserve Component—Supporting Unit*

1st Battalion, 151st Infantry Regiment  
Indianapolis, Indiana  
*National Guard—Large Unit*

D Company, 113th Aviation Regiment  
Reno, Nevada  
*National Guard—Small Unit*

Joint Forces Headquarters—Florida  
St. Augustine, Florida  
*National Guard—Supporting Unit*

Fort Hood, Texas  
*All Army—Installation*

426th Brigade Support Battalion,  
101st Airborne Division (Air Assault)  
Fort Campbell, Kentucky  
*All Army Operational Deployment—  
Large Unit*

B Company, 1st Battalion, 35th Armor  
Regiment, 1st Armored Division  
Baumholder, Germany  
*All Army Operational Deployment—  
Small Unit*